DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 185 994 IR 008 326

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TITLE The Consequences of Extending a Country's Library Legislation to the Inclusion of Academic Libraries, with Special Reference to Nigeria.
PUB DATE Aug 79
NOTE 30p.: Paper presented at the Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (45th, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 27-September 1, 1979). For related documents, see IR 008 306, IR 008 309-312, IR 008 326, IR 008 341, IR 008 352, IR 008 359, IR 008 369 and IR 008 371. Best copy available.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Academic Libraries; *Developing Nations; *Legislation; Libraries; Library Administration; Library Networks; *Library Planning; Library Services
IDENTIFIERS *Nigeria

ABSTRACT

An aspect of library legislation which is generally ignored is legislation that promotes the utilization of academic libraries to maximize the potential of a nation's resources. From the available literature it would seem that library legislation in developing nations still conforms strictly to the traditional view that library legislation should be restricted to enabling laws and depository obligations. This is certainly true of Latin America and the Caribbean. The defeat of S. R. Ranganathan's proposals for a Union Library in India in 1948 deprived developing nations of a shining example of a model library law. An overview of library legislation in Nigeria makes clear that the nation has followed essentially the enabling and depository law pattern. Academic libraries are depository only, enjoy no privileges established by law, and have few binding legal obligations to the outside community. While a number of universities have recently made some moves towards sharing their resources with their library-poor fellow countrymen, legislation supported by the academic community is needed to expand on the present base of academic libraries and establish a truly effective national library system. (RAA)

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The Consequences of Extending a Country's Library Legislation to the Inclusion of Academic Libraries, with Special Reference to Nigeria

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The number of levels involved will depend, of course, on the structure of government in a particular country. In a federal system of government, three levels are likely to be involved as follows: Federal, State and Local.

Also included in the library legislation of a country should be copyright and depository laws, and with the arrival of computer technology, regulation of storage and access of information on the individual in view of possible violation of privacy.

In the literature of librarianship, library legislation is generally taken as referring to laws establishing the structure and governance of national and public libraries. Rarely, if ever, are laws affecting universities and special libraries included in studies of the library legislations of different countries. Students of comparative library laws are often hard put to it to find information on the library legislation of most countries in an easily usable format. One notable exception in this regard is American Library Laws published by the American Library Association.[1]

One aspect of library legislation that has been generally ignored, probably because very few such laws exist, is legislation intended to promote cooperation in order to maximise the use of the library resources of a state or country. In some cases such legislation is part of the National Library Laws and is spelt out in sections dealing with the functions of the national library.

It is this last aspect of library legislation that we will be most concerned with in this paper, and the discussion follows in section 4 below.

2. Library Legislation in Developing Countries: A Brief Overview of the Situation in Selected Countries

From the available literature, it would seem that library legislation in developing countries still conforms strictly to the traditional view that library legislation should be restricted to enabling laws and depository obligations. This is certainly true of Latin America and the Caribbean.[2,3,4,5]

In Africa, Ghana was the trend setter with the promulgation of the Ghana Library Board Ordinance in 1949. This Ordinance has become the prototype for similar legislations in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Tanzania[6]

If S.R. Ranganathan's proposals for a Union Library Bill had been accepted by the Indian Government in 1948, that country would have been a shining example to developing countries as to what national library legislation should be. Ranganathan's bill called for among other things, the coordination of all libraries under the central government; for the establishment of centralized cataloguing and classification, and for the establishment of agencies to promote inter-library loans within and outside the country and for the handling of exchanges[7]. As it is, library legislation in India is much the same as in other developing countries.[8]

It would be difficult in a paper of this nature to attempt a comprehensive review of library legislation in the developing world. This all too brief survey has attempted merely a bird's-eye-view of legislation in a number of countries regarded as typical of Third World.

3. Library Legislations in Nigeria: A Detailed Review

Library legislation in Nigeria has followed essentially the enabling and depository law pattern. It is pertinent to point out at this stage that Nigeria is a Federation and that laws may be made at the Federal, State or Local levels. So far, existing laws have been promulgated by the Federal and State Governments. Following the reform of the local government system in Nigeria in 1976, the country now has a uniform local government system. However, some of the new local governments are yet to find their feet and very few, if any, have enacted bye-laws in respect of libraries.

3.1 Federal Laws

3.1.1 National Library of Nigeria

Prior to the founding of the National Library of Nigeria in 1964, the bibliographic functions of a national library were performed by the library of the University of Ibadan, pursuant to the provisions of the Publications Ordinance of 1950. This provided that two copies of every publication in the country should be delivered to the Library of the University of Ibadan within one month of publication.

In 1963, Dr. Carl White, the National Library Adviser, recommended that a national library be established by law to perform the following functions:

(b) To serve as a legal deposit and a centre for the exchange of books.[10]

However, the National Library Act which was passed after a long and stormy debate in the Federal Parliament in September 1964, failed to provide for the fulfillment of either the function of a national depository or the publication of a national bibliography.[11] For in Section 7 (1) of the law, its territorial application is clearly stated as follows:

> This Act may be cited as the National Library Act, 1964 and shall apply to the Federal territory only.

This meant that Nigeria had a National Library established by law which was neither a national depository nor could publish the national bibliography. The library of the University of Ibadan continued to fulfill these functions under the provisions of the Publications Ordinance of 1950, already mentioned.

3.1

3.2 This unsatisfactory situation led to a protracted debate within the library profession in Nigeria as to what the functions of the National Library should really be, and how these functions were to be established by law.[12] The profession's views were embodied in a memorandum submitted by the Nigerian Library Association to the Federal Government in 1968.

In 1970 the National Library Decree[13] was promulgated. Although it did not incorporate all the ideas of the Nigerian Library Association, a real attempt was made to remedy the major shortcomings of the National Library Act of 1964, with particular reference to deposit obligations

and bibliographical functions. Unlike the Act of 1964, it is clearly stated that the decree applies throughout the country and has supremacy over any library edicts of state governments in the event of any conflict. Among the functions assigned to the National Library in Section 2 of the decree are the following:

1. To establish and maintain a branch of the National Library in each state of the Federation.
2. To give advice on library development or organization to any agency of the Federal Government or other state or local government agency requiring it.
3. To have responsibility for the National Bibliography and the development of bibliographical services.

Section 4 of the 1970 Decree deals with deposit privileges. Sub-section 1 of the decree states that the publisher of every book in Nigeria shall, within one month after publication, deliver at his own expense three copies of the book to the National Library. The Director of the National Library shall then make available to the librarian of the University of Ibadan one copy of the book for permanent preservation. Although this provision would appear to have retained the privileges extended to the University of Ibadan by the Publications Ordinance of 1950, the Ibadan University Library would now rely on the National Library to work out a proper machinery for the procurement of publications. Subsection 3 of this section makes special provision for government publications: 25 copies of all publications issued by or on behalf of the Federal Government and 10 copies of all publications of state governments must be deposited with the National Library.

Although the National Library Decree 1970 was viewed as at least enabling the National Library to be truly national, not all of its provisions appear to have been very well thought out. For example, the two deposit libraries designated in the law are within 150 kilometers of each other, in the Western part of the country. There is no other national depository anywhere else in the country, though there are a number of regional and state deposit libraries designated by state laws.[14] The need for more strategically located national deposit libraries is not removed by the fact that, as we have seen, the National Library is to maintain a branch in each state. None of these state branches would be a depository under the provisions of Section 4 of the National Library Decree.

If the National Library Decree could be amended so that depository rights are extended to selected university and/or research libraries, it would be much easier to involve them in some of the programmes of the National Library, such as the national union catalogue.

3.1.2 Special/Government Libraries

Government sponsored Research Councils have passed through several stages of development in the past three decades in Nigeria. In 1977, however, the Federal Government promulgated a decree to regulate and coordinate the functions of various research institutions in the country, by establishing the National Science & Technology Development Agency.[15]

Prior to the establishment of this Agency, a number of research councils were established to coordinate the

activities of research institutions in the areas of science and technology, agricultural research, industrial research, and medical research. The decree establishing the National Science & Technology Development Agency repealed the laws establishing those research councils.

Section 2 subsection (j) of the National Science & Technology Development Agency Decree states one of the functions of the agency as:

> To establish and maintain a National Science & Technology Library, Documentation & Conference Centre.

Elsewhere in the decree, section 11 subsections 2 & 3, it is stated that the Agency shall take over the assets and liabilities of the former research councils as well as institutes already established. Since there were libraries already existing in the research institutes it means that the National Science & Technology Development Agency will have a central library facility as indicated in the decree and still have responsibility for the development of libraries in the research institutes even though this is not clearly spelt out.

Also, judging from the other functions outlined in section 2 of the decree, it is obvious that the Agency has a pervasive role to play in technological developments in the country. Given this fact, it is surprising that the National Science & Technology Library, Documentation and Conference Centre is not designated as a depository for at least scientific publications of the country.

Perhaps, in the future the National Library Decree of 1970 may be amended to improve its legal deposit provision.

3.1.2 University and Academic Libraries

See section 4 below.

3.2 State Laws

Public libraries in Nigeria have generally been established at state levels. Library laws enacted by the state have, therefore, focused attention on the establishment of public library systems.

As we saw in section 2 of this paper the Ghana Library Board Ordinance has served as a model for other public library laws in Africa. The Unesco public library project in Enugu, Eastern Nigeria, in the late 1950s was designed as a model for other parts of Nigeria. That pilot scheme had the greatest impact on Eastern Nigeria which was later split into four states (Anambra, Cross River, Imo & Rivers States) all of which have highly successful public library services. This example was followed by the neighbouring Midwestern state of Nigeria, later renamed Bendel State. The public library services in these states have been successful largely on account of their having been established by law and run by boards which, because they have the status of public corporations, exercise fairly wide discretions in running their own affairs.

Apart from the five states mentioned above, Kaduna is the only other state to have enacted a law to establish a library board.[16] Ondo State has its own law under consideration.

The Cross River, Rivers and Bendel States Library edicts are at once enabling laws as well as publications laws. In this regard Anambra, Imo and Kaduna States are different in having separate laws to establish their library boards, while making alternative provisions for legal deposit of publications.[17]

3.2.1 A Note on the Territorial Structure of Nigeria

As at present constituted Nigeria is a federation of 19 states. A new constitution due to come into effect on October 1, 1979 establishes the procedure for the creation of more states. In discussing individual state laws, it becomes necessary to give a brief historical sketch of the development of the present structure.

Almost one hundred years after the British occupation of Lagos in 1861 and after several constitutional reviews, Nigeria emerged as an independent Federation on October 1, 1960. There were three internal self-governing regions: Northern, Eastern and Western. As a result of a plebiscite in the minority areas of the Western Region, the Mid-Western Region was carved out in 1963. Thus Nigeria had four component states up to January 1966, when the civilian government was ousted in a military coup d'état. This event was followed in quick succession by others which were to have a significant and, perhaps, permanent impact on the Nigerian body politic and the destiny of its peoples.

On July 29, 1966, there followed a counter-coup. And almost from then up to November 1966, there were riots in parts of the Northern region resulting in the

deaths of thousands of Nigerians, most of whom were from Eastern Nigeria. About two million Eastern Nigerians returned to their home region. A series of constitutional and other disputes culminated in the proclamation of Eastern Nigeria as an independent Republic of Biafra on May 30, 1967. Prior to this event (on May 27, 1967) the Federal Government had divided Nigeria into twelve states, including three located in the newly proclaimed Republic of Biafra.

Civil war, now virtually inevitable, broke out in July 1967. For thirty months, war raged within the Eastern States, as they were now called. Peace returned to the country, following the surrender of Biafra, symbolically on January 15, 1970, the fourth anniversary of the first military coup d'état.

The regime of General Yakubu Gowon was overthrown in a bloodless coup on July 29, 1975, on the ninth anniversary of the second coup of 1966. The new regime under General Murtala Ramat Muhammed promised to follow the Army's original nine-point programme judiciously and to return to barracks by the end of 1979. In pursuit of this objective, nineteen states were created in February 1976.

These constitutional changes have meant that many laws have had to be amended or repealed. In discussing state legislation, therefore, the intention is to discuss legislation as it exists within the present structure and to make references to pre-1976 laws where these are still in the books.

3.2.2 Anambra State

(a) Library Board Law

The Anambra State Library Board was established under the East Central State Library Board Edict (No. 17) of 1971.[18] This law repealed the East Regional Library Board Law of 1955, amended in 1958. The edict of 1971 bears close resemblance to the law which it repealed. As has been stated elsewhere, that law was based on the Ghana Library Board Ordinance.

The edict provides for the establishment of a Library Board and section 6 defines the functions of the Director of Library Services. It also provides for the appointment of a Secretary whose functions are stated in section 12. The functions and powers of the board are given in section 14. Section 22 of the edict makes reference to deposit of publications. However, it says: "Where any printed matter is published by or on behalf of any department of the state government, it shall be the duty of the Head of that Department to deliver forthwith to the Director for the purposes of the State Library, two copies of the publication".

(b) Publications Law

The Eastern Nigeria Publications Law of 1955, amended in 1958,[19] was not repealed by the East Central State Government in 1971, nor by the Anambra State Government. Section 2 of the Amendment which replaced section 3, subsection 1 of the 1955 law, required the publisher of every book published in Eastern Region to deliver copies within one month as follows:

i. Four copies to the Minister.

ii. Two copies each to the libraries of University of Ibadan, University of Ghana, Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone and the University of Nigeria.

iii. Two copies to the State Library Board.

It is interesting to note that depository privileges are extended in this law to two university libraries outside Nigeria. One wonders if the libraries concerned have ever tried to claim the privileges granted to them by the law.

3.2.3 Bendel State

The Midwest State was carved out of the former Western Nigeria in 1963. It was renamed Bendel State in 1976. Prior to the promulgation of the Midwest Library Board Edict in 1971, the former publications law of Western Nigeria continued to have force in Bendel State.[20] Although the Midwest Library Board Edict was promulgated in 1971, it has the year 1970 in its title, and its date of commencement is given as 1st August 1969.[21] This Edict provides for the establishment of a Midwest Library Board, outlines the functions and powers of the Board and those of the Director of Library Services. In addition, it provides in Section 13 for deposit of new publications. The publisher of every book published in the State is expected to deliver, at his own expense, and within one month:

Four copies to the State Library, two of which shall be sent by the State Library to the Library of the University of Ibadan and the National Library respectively.

It will be noticed that the provisions of the National Library Decree in respect of the library of the University of Ibadan and the National Library are protected by this edict. Indeed, this provision would seem at first to be somewhat superfluous, but one should add that at least, in the case of the library of University of Ibadan, it means that it will now receive two copies of all publications from the Bendel State.

It will be seen from section 13 which provides for penalties, etc. for non-compliance, that the Midwest Library Board Edict doubles as enabling legislation and a depository law. Before we conclude discussion of this law, it is pertinent to point out the provision of section 13, subsection 2 which is similar to the provision of section 22 of the East Central State Library Board Edict. This is in respect to the deposit of publications of agencies and departments of government. Whereas the East Central State edict states that two copies must be deposited in the State Library, the Midwest Library Board Edict merely talks about "adequate copies".

3.2.4 Cross-River State

The State Library Edict of 1973 established the State Library Board, defined its composition and functions, its relationship to the Commissioner responsible for libraries and stated the guidelines for the Board's operations.[22]

Section 11 deals with deposit obligations, and this particular law draws attention to the provision of section 4 of the National Library Decree 1970. It then states that in addition to the obligations imposed by the

National Library Decree, the publisher must deliver within one month:

(a) Two copies to the State Library.

(b) One copy each to the University of Nigeria, Calabar Campus and the College of Technology, Calabar.

It is necessary to point out at this juncture that the Calabar Campus of the University of Nigeria became the University of Calabar in 1976.

Subsection 3 of Section 11 also deals, as in the case of Anambra and Bendel States, with the deposit of state publications. In the case of the Cross-River State, the edict has drawn a distinction between publications of the government and publications of government agencies or institutions. Ten copies of publications of the former and five copies of those of the latter are to be delivered "forthwith" to the State Librarian who is enpowered to demand fewer copies if he so determines.

3.2.5 Imo State

The Imo State was carved out of the former East Central State in March, 1976. The founding Director of the Imo State Library Board was in turn the founding Director of the East Central State Library Board and the Eastern Nigeria Library Board. He is no less a personality than Mr. Kalu Okorie - the doyen of public libraries in Nigeria.

This preliminary statement has become necessary because, apart from a few slight modifications, one can read the East Central State Library Board Edict for the Imo State Library Board Edict 1977 (Edict No. 12 of 1977).[23]

The discussion in section 3.2.2 of this paper is, therefore, relevant here.

3.2.6 Rivers State

The Rivers State Library Board Edict, 1971[24] like the edict establishing the library boards of Bendel & Cross-River States is both an enabling law and a depository law. Sections 1 - 37 provide for the establishment of a Board and give details of the constitution, functions, and proceedings of the Board as well as the duties, powers, etc. of its staff. Section 38 has a provision similar to section 11 of the Cross-River State Library Edict of 1973 in that it takes cognisance of the provisions of section 4 of the National Library Decree 1970. In addition to the obligations imposed by the National Library Decree, every publisher in the State shall deliver, within one month, three copies of his publications to the State Library. The State Library is required to preserve two copies and send the remainder to the College of Science and Technology of the State.

3.2.7 Summary

In this review of library legislation in Nigeria, it is clear that in all cases, legislations as they affect university and academic libraries have so far related only to depository rights. Other states not covered in this review have publications laws only, although as was pointed out earlier, some have library board edicts under consideration.

4. Academic Library Legislation in Nigeria

An examination of the laws establishing many of the thirteen universities and over forty colleges of technology

and education in Nigeria indicates that as far as libraries are concerned the reference is usually to the university or college librarian.[25] An attempt is then made to delineate the functions of the librarian which are usually that the librarian shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor or Principal for the administration of the university or college library and the coordination of library services in the institution. There are no provisions for the establishment of the library and there are thus no functions specifically reserved for it. It can be said, of course, that the library's objectives should normally be close to those of the institution which it serves and these are spelt out early enough in the university laws.

A study of existing Federal and state laws has shown (Section 3 of this paper) that apart from the state library, state laws also designate the library of the college or university located in the state as a depository. Beyond that, the academic library enjoys no privileges established by law and has few legally binding obligations to the wider community outside academe.

5. Nigeria: An Examination of the Need to Extend Library Legislation to the Inclusion of Academic Libraries

Library legislation is the function of at least three groups: The executive branch of the country or state, in this case the president, or the governor of a state; the legislative branch; and the library profession. In Nigeria so far, the laws currently in force have been made by the executive branch through decrees. This is an accident of the history of the country in the two decades since independence. Between 1960 and 1966, Nigeria was a

parliamentary democracy where legislation was initiated by the government in power or through bills by private members whether or not they belonged to the party in power. From 1966 to the present the country has had a military regime and the democratic process has been completely absent from the body politic.

According to Edmon Low, "at any given time, legislation at the national level is an excellent mirror of current social concerns".[26] In Nigeria, in the past decade at least, education has become a major social concern. The Federal Government has introduced a programme of Universal Free Primary Education and has given substantial subventions to state governments to ensure the success of the scheme. Since 1970, the number of universities in the country has grown from five to thirteen. In the same period there has been a phenomenal growth in the number of colleges of education and technology. For the past two academic years, university education has been tuition free, and so has secondary education since April this year.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the Federal and State Governments in Nigeria are not unaware of the place of education in the developmental process. The fact that this interest in education has not been matched by similar interest in the development of libraries may not be entirely the fault of government.

The question then arises, how can university and college libraries be brought into the mainstream of national library legislation? The answer is: if there

is a strong awareness of libraries and the essential role they can play in nation building, legislation will be introduced to find a way of bringing the resources of the academic libraries into the national pool.

In Nigeria it is quite clear that twenty six years after the UNESCO Seminar at Ibadan and twenty three years after the law establishing the Eastern Nigeria Library Board, there is still a lack of awareness of libraries. The evidence is partially in the fact that only six out of nineteen states have established public library systems by law and the fact that the National Library Decree designated only two depositories for a country as vast as Nigeria. Part of the blame for this lack of awareness must be laid at the doorstep of the profession of librarianship and its practioners in Nigeria. Government, of course, shares part of the blame. For example, a law for the regulation of librarianship and its recognition as a profession has been in the works for over a decade while bureaucrats are still trying to determine whether or not librarianship is a profession.

5.1 The Purpose of Extending Legislation to Include Academic Libraries

Because they are generally well organised, well staffed and often generously endowed, academic libraries tend to play key roles in the development of libraries and librarianship in developing countries. This pattern has been repeated in Nigeria. For example, as at 1977, eleven of the thirteen universities in Nigeria had between them collections numbering over 1.5 million volumes and recurrent budget of 7.4 million Naira (about 11.5 million US Dollars).

These statistics must be taken in the light of the fact that as at the time five of the universities were barely a year old. Even then, there were 202 professional librarians in all the thirteen universities and five of the oldest libraries had professional staff of 25 or more each. We have also noted earlier that the library of the University of Ibadan was Nigeria's National Library in all but name from 1953 to 1964. Nearly 80% of all the Presidents and Honorary Secretaries of the Nigerian Library Association since its inception have been academic librarians.

The purpose of extending the country's library laws to include the academic libraries is to ensure that these immense human and material resources are put to best possible use for the promotion of social progress and economic development.

The United States, more than any country that we know of, has appreciated the need to bring the resources of its university and college libraries into the national pool. The US Government has passed laws for providing extra funds for college and university libraries.[27]

Although, as we have seen, there is a need to extend the nation's library legislation to the inclusion of academic libraries, institutions of higher learning, but more especially the universities, are usually wary about government measures intended to bring them into closer union with government and its agencies. The reason for this is the fear that such measures could lead to excessive government interference and ultimately to the erosion of

the much cherished academic freedom. For example, since the take over of the Nigerian universities by the Federal Government, Vice-Chancellors have been appointed, deployed and removed directly by the executive branch of the government, a function which was formerly within the province of the universities themselves and their governing council.

The other side of the coin is that one of the main objectives of academic institutions is to make the results of research available for the improvement of mankind in general and the institutions' immediate environments in particular. It is difficult to see how legislation as proposed here can lead to government interference and erosion of academic freedom. Certainly the provision of more funds and the availability of greater library resources to the wider community can hardly be seen in this regard. Academic institutions and their libraries should, therefore, welcome such legislation, especially if the necessary safeguards are included. These safeguards will be there if the library profession retains the initiative by way of proposing legislation rather than waiting until the executive or legislative branch has acted.

5.2 The Effect of Extending Legislation to the Inclusion of Academic Libraries

The impact of the university libraries collectively began to be felt from 1973 when the Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities was founded. The Committee began life as the Sub-Committee on University Libraries of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors,

apparently without specifically defined objectives. However, in the past five years the Committee has made steady progress on issues affecting university libraries as witnessed by the following achievements:

(i) Establishment of a joint acquisitions scheme for African government documents.

(ii) Progress on a computerized Union List of Serials.

(iii) Representation to the National Universities Commission on the needs and problems of libraries in the newer universities.

(iv) Establishment of a courier service to speed-up inter-lending between the universities.

(v) Sponsorship of a workshop on Library Automation.

(vi) Representation to the authorities on the conditions of service for professional library staff.

By establishing a country-wide courier service, and sponsoring a workshop on library automation, the Committee of University Librarians gave the lead in two areas of increasing importance in librarianship in Nigeria - library cooperation and automation. One must add that the moves of the Committee of University Librarians in these areas are still initiatives. The courier service is yet to take off on its first run, and automation is still very much a thing of the future in university libraries, and indeed, in all libraries in Nigeria. A few university libraries, notably Lagos, Nsukka, and Ibadan, have active plans to automate, but these plans are not yet being

coordinated, as they should, at the level of the Committee of University Librarians.

In the course of the present decade, university libraries have been through a boom and a crunch. The boom began in 1973 with the Federal Government take-over of the universities, and the declaration by the National Universities Commission that at least 5% of each university's recurrent budget be set aside for the library. But since the 1977/78 financial year, things have begun to turn sour for the universities, and Nigeria itself entered the beginning of the worst recession in its history. Government projects have had to be cancelled or scaled down considerably, and some government policies have had to be reviewed. For example, tuition remained free in the universities, but boarding fees shot up so high that university students demonstrated against the hikes in May and June 1978. The universities have not escaped the attention of the bureaucrats who have to administer these tight-fisted government fiscal policies. In the past two years, university budgets have tumbled to something like 60% of their 1975/76 levels. The National Universities Commission has now suggested that only 4% of university recurrent budgets be set aside for the libraries.

Given these ups and downs and also taking cognisance of the laudable projects of the Committee of University Librarians, one can see that if the Federal Government were to provide the university libraries with alternative sources of funding by direct legislation,

some of the projects enumerated above and others in the pipeline could meaningfully be brought to the doorsteps of several other types of libraries and institutions in Nigeria for the betterment of library service and information delivery in the country generally.

The present writer is aware that one of the reasons for the failure of the courier service to take off on its first run (despite three years of discussion and planning) has been the inability of every member library to assure its material contribution toward the establishment and maintenance of the service.

In 1974 the National Library of Nigeria sponsored a conference on library cooperation in Nigeria at the University of Ife. The conference envisaged that library cooperation in the country would be developed in two phases:

(a) An inter-library lending programme.
(b) A cooperative acquisition project.

So far the only tangible result of the Ife Conference has been the publication by the National Library of Library Cooperation in Nigeria. Handbook, Phase I: Inter Library Lending Programme. Lagos, 1976. 19p. The National Library has also produced inter-library loan forms. Beyond this, it has remained unable to implement the programmes outlined in 1974. The main obstacle has been the non-availability within the national pool of the resources of the university libraries which would have constituted the bedrock of any meaningful inter-lending scheme in Nigeria. This is because not all the university libraries have been willing or able to contribute cards to the National Union Catalogue. It is also pertinent to state here that both

the National Library and the Committee of University Librarians had projects for compiling union lists of serials at the same time. The university libraries project has reached a more advanced stage because of their greater affinity.

If the Federal Government were to provide funds to the university libraries for their projects by way of direct legislation either through the National Universities Commission or through the National Library, perhaps the university libraries would feel an obligation to participate actively in these national projects. Until the university libraries can rely on diversified sources of funding for individual and collective projects, their human and material resources will continue to benefit only the small community of scholars, researchers, students and university teachers.

5.3 The Strategies For Extending National Library Legislation to Academic Libraries

By October 1st 1979, Nigeria should have a civilian President under a constitution very similar to the American constitution. In the new Nigerian constitution certain subjects, such as defence and external affairs are on the exclusive list, which means that legislation affecting them can only be made at the Federal level. Other subjects such as libraries and higher education are on the concurrent list, which means that legislation can be made at both Federal and State levels.

As we have seen from 5.2 above, the essence of bringing academic libraries into the mainstream of library

legislation is to provide funds for the execution of projects which would be mutually beneficial to the libraries and the larger community in general. It follows, therefore, that since the Federal Government is richer than any of the state governments, the main thrust in the campaign for improved library legislation should be the Federal legislature consisting of the National Assembly and the Senate. It is likely, of course, that those states which have traditionally been library conscious (see 3.2 above) may wish to continue to make progress, and there is no reason to exclude them in this campaign.

Against this background, the Nigerian Library Association and its state branches should have committees charged with the responsibility of initiating legislation and identifying and lobbying legislators who are friends of libraries to push such legislations through the Federal and State legislatures. In making this proposal there is no suggestion that the Nigerian Library Association should, at this stage at least, evolve a machinery as elaborate and far-reaching as the Legislative Committee of the American Library Association.[28] However, in view of the low level of library awareness already discussed, Nigerian librarians will have a harder task of winning friends and influencing people.

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25. See for example:

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(b) University of Nigeria, Calendar 1976-78 pp 19, 24.

(c) University of Ife, Nigeria. Calendar 1977-78 p.39

26. Edmon Low "Federal Legislations Affecting College and University Libraries" Library Trends 19, 2 (1970) p. 200.

27. Ibid. and Edmon Low "Implications of Federal Programs for College Libraries" Library Trends 18, 1 (1969) pp 57-65.

28. See "Battle of the Budget" Library Journal (Mar 15, 1973) pp 834-838.